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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170719

15
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 /080 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL
8/27/73 EXT. 22110
APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRAN:RD
DOD/ISA - MR. VANDEGRIFT
---------- 068453
R 272331Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 170719

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, KS
SUBJECT: SECDEF COMMENTS ON US FORCES IN KOREA

1. RE O'DONOHUE-KRIEBEL TELECON AUG. 27.

2. ON MEET THE PRESS AUGUST 26 SECDEF WAS ASKED TWO QUESTIONS ON KOREA. TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWS:

MR. CORDDRY: MR. SECRETARY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO ASIA. IN SPEAKING THE OTHER DAY OF THE REASONS FOR PULLING DOWN OUR FORCES IN THAILAND, YOU SPOKE OF AN AID FOR BETTER ALLOCATION OF OUR MILITARY POWER AND MOST PARTICULARLY MENTIONED NATO. IF WE'RE GOING TO DRAW DOWN IN THAILAND, WHY DO WE NOT REMOVE THE 40,000 ODD AMERICANS IN SOUTH KOREA? WHY DO WE KEEP AN ARMY DIVISION THERE? WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THAT?

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: I THINK THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE IS THAT THE U.S. FORCES WILL REMAIN IN KOREA UNTIL -- AND WE HOPE THIS IS IN THE NEAR FUTURE -- A STABILIZED RE-LATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, JUST
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PAGE 02 STATE 170719

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AS IT HAS COME TO EXIST BETWEEN WEST AND EAST GERMANY AND HOPEFULLY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THESE TWO STATES HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH EACH OTHER. PART OF THE REASON THAT THEY HAVE FELT IMPELLED TO NEGOTIATE HAS BEEN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES. AFTER THERE IS A STABILIZATION OF THE FORCES, THOSE FORCES CAN BE DRAWN DOWN STILL FURTHER, BUT I REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE JUST IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, REMOVED ONE DIVISION FROM KOREA.

MR. CORDDRY: YOU SAID NEAR FUTURE, OR HOW DID YOU PUT THAT?

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT I SHOULD STRESS THAT THAT MEANS A YEAR, 18 MONTHS, SOMETHING OF THAT SORT. THE TWO SIDES ARE NEGOTIATING, BUT THE NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT ALWAYS PROCEED RAPIDLY. RUSH

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